

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07

LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01

SP-02 OPR-02 H-02 AID-05 PC-01 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /059 W

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R 061009Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANJUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2671

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB GA

SUBJ: STRIKE OF GAMBIA GOVERNMENT DAILY WAGE EARNERS

ENDS AFTER FIVE DAYS

REF: A-49

1. M. E. JALLOW, SECRETARY-GENERAL, GAMBIA WORKERS UNION, FRIDAY, AUG 1, 1975, IN A RADIO BROADCAST ORDERED GOVERNMENT DAILY WAGE EARNERS BACK TO THEIR JOBS, TO END A FIVE-DAY STRIKE. THE STRIKE HAD BEEN CALLED TO PROTEST THE DELAY IN IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE WALLER COMMISSION, HEADED BY BRITISH CIVIL SERVANT, MR. H. WALLER. THE DELAYS LED TO UNWARRANTED EXPECTATIONS ABOUT THE NEW WAGE SCALES AND WHEN THE MINIMUM WAGE OF DALASIS 3.50 (D1.74 EQUALS \$1.00) WAS ANNOUNCED, JALLOW CALLED OUT MEMBERS OF HIS UNION. STEVEDORES SOON JOINED AND SOME PRIVATE EMPLOYEES JOINED FOR ONE DAY AND THEN RETURNED TO WORK.

2. DIFFICULT TO SEE WHAT ADVANTAGES ACCRUED TO WORKERS WHO LOST FIVE FULL DAYS PAY WITHOUT SUCCEEDING IN GETTING GOTG TO INCREASE MINIMUM WAGE ABOVE D3.50.

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3. JALLOW HIMSELF MAY HAVE SUCCEEDED IN DEMONSTRATING ONCE MORE HIS ABILITY TO CONTROL FAIRLY LARGE NUMBER OF DAILY WAGE EARNERS AND SMALLER NUMBER SEMI-SKILLED AND SKILLED WORKERS AT PUBLIC WORKS DEPT (PWD). JALLOW HAS INDICATED THAT HE IS OPEN TO POLITICAL COOPERATION WITH OPPOSITION PARTY WHICH MAY BE IN EARLY FORMATIVE STAGES. APPEARS JALLOW, WHO ONCE DENOUNCED SHERIFF DIBBA WHEN HE WAS MINISTER OF FINANCE, NOW CONSIDERS HIM POTENTIAL POLITICAL PARTNER SHOULD DIBBA (EX-MINISTER OF ECON PLANNING AND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT), DISMISSED THIS WEEK BY PRES JAWARA FOR TRYING TO "BUILD SUPER-MINISTRY," SUCCEED IN GAINING CONTROL OF EMBRYO POLITICAL OPPOSITION.
MCFARLAND

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: WAGES, GOVERNMENT PERSONNEL, LABOR STRIKES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BANJUL00680
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750271-0360
From: BANJUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750875/aaaacocq.tel
Line Count: 74
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE A-49
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25 JUN 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <12 NOV 2003 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: STRIKE OF GAMBIAN GOVERNMENT DAILY WAGE EARNERS ENDS AFTER FIVE DAYS
TAGS: ELAB, GA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006